

FALL 2016
NON-CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACCT 597: FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ANALYSIS

Emphasizes both the process of financial reporting as well as the analysis of financial statements. A true “use” perspective will be taken to discuss the implications of accounting methods chosen and how they matter to different stakeholders of a company.

CIVT 202: PERTINENCE: IDENTITY CONFLICT & WORLD POLITICS (See GOVT 345)

CIVT 203: JUSTICE: JUSTICE AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL (See RELI 255)

CLAS 397 TOPICS: LITERATURE OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

This is an upper level Latin reading course focusing on the literature of the Roman Republic.

COMM 397 TOPICS: GENDER, SECURITY AND THE PRESIDENCY

This course will examine the interplay of gender, national security, and the U.S. presidency. Students will engage in thoughtful discussions and exploration of questions like: How are gender and national security connected? What does the current election teach us regarding gender and the presidency? Can simply electing a woman alter the gendered nature of national security? How does gender constrain action? What is the alternative (to gendered roles)? What are the implications (of gendered roles) for men and women who would be commander-in-chief? This course is grounded in literature from communication studies, sociology, psychology, and government/international relations.

ENGL 289 SEMINAR IN LITERARY CRITICISM AND THEORY: CULTURAL THEORY AND POPULAR CULTURE

This course is designed to introduce the major schools of thought in critical and cultural theory so that students can learn how to read and interpret literature and popular culture in an in-depth manner. In so doing, students will be empowered to deconstruct and make sense of the popular culture narratives that bombard and surround them every day. Theories studied include structuralism, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, and gender/ethnicity. This course is essential for any student considering graduate school in English or related fields. Prerequisite: Any ENGL 200-level course

ENGL 320 SEMINAR IN EARLIER AMERICAN LITERATURE: EDGAR ALLEN POE

Edgar Allen Poe remains one of the most influential American writers; from detective fiction, to horror, to literary theory, Poe is the progenitor of many of the popular and literary genres we enjoy today. This seminar in early American literature will focus on Poe’s writing and career as a way of understanding key themes and concerns in U.S. literature and culture prior to the Civil War. At the same time, this course will look ahead to examine Poe’s continuing appeal and influence in the U.S. and beyond. Prerequisite: ENGL 240

GENL 297 TOPICS: SLAVERY IN THE NON-WESTERN WORLD, 10,000 BCE TO THE PRESENT

Explores the changing nature of slavery in non-Western societies (Native American, Latin American, African, and Asian) from 10,000 BCE to the present. Investigates the economics of why businesses choose to use slaves instead of other forms of labor. Examines why governments do not always outlaw slavery or enforce anti-slavery laws. Surveys the sociological and psychological effects of slavery on both enslavers and enslaved. Considers ways of reducing the number of enslaved persons today.

GERM 397 TOPICS IN GERMAN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE: GERMAN COMMUNICATION

In this course, the advanced student in German will further develop the oral and written language skills acquired in previous courses. Course work includes class discussions and student presentations based on their written compositions. The course is taught in German in its entirety.

MATH 130 NUMBERS AND OPERATIONS FOR TEACHERS

MUSI 397 TOPICS: WIND LITERATURE-MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOL REPERTOIRE

This course is designed to provide Instrumental Music Education Majors with the opportunity to experience a broad range of repertoire that is appropriate for both the middle school and high school level. Students will familiarize themselves with a process for selecting repertoire for programming an entire concert season, selecting repertoire for smaller bands or bands with incomplete instrumentations, and selecting music for contest.

PHIL 297: TOPICS: FREE WILL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

We will begin by studying philosophical theories of the nature and extent of human freedom, considering questions like: Is freedom compatible with determinism? If the natural world is indeterministic, does that leave room for free choice? Human freedom will matter in so far as it is necessary for moral responsibility, so we will examine the relationship between these concepts, and the implications of various accounts of free will for practices of praise and blame, reward and punishment. Then, we will consider what the natural sciences tell us about human freedom and moral responsibility. After considering skeptical challenges arising from neuroscience and psychology to the claim that we are normally free and responsible for what we do, we will look at empirical work on such issues as addiction and psychopathy.

SPAN 396 TOPICS IN HISPANIC LITERATURES: RE-WRITING THE SELF: IDENTITY AND TRANCULTURATION IN SPANISH-AMERICAN AND U.S. LATINO/A LITERATURE

In this course we focus on six Latino and Spanish-American authors whose writings explore individual identity at the crossroads of bicultural or multicultural heritages in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Cuban poets Nicolás Guillén, Nancy Morejón, and Georgina Herrera proudly reframe their African heritage; Latino/a authors Gloria Anzaldúa, Francisco Jiménez, and Esmeralda Santiago narrate their experiences growing up as Hispanics in the U.S. The concept of transculturation guides our investigation of how minorities do not simply assimilate to new environments but also create new cultures by articulating their unique perspectives through a discourse of hybridity.

SOCI 297 TOPICS: SOCIOLOGY OF POPULAR CULTURE

This course will provide foundational tools to understand and analyze popular culture from the perspective of sociology. We will define popular culture and examine the diverse array of things that are produced, consumed, and disseminated as “popular culture” including: music, art, sports, fashion, television and movies, food, commercial products, and new digital media. We will critically examine the important role that popular culture has in our lives - and broader society - by exploring the social and historical contexts of the production and consumption of culture. While this course primarily explores the American context, it does include topics and examples that span international interests such as Premier League Soccer jerseys, beer and Oktoberfest, Japanese Anime, and viral memes to name only a few. With the many forms of popular culture we will engage with sociological questions like: do people interpret popular culture in similar or differing ways and what are influential factors? how might popular culture reproduce inequality? what role does popular culture play in societal-level change or individual-level identity? This course will culminate with a final project/paper. No prior experience with sociology is required however, course expectations include: timely reading, active participation in class discussion, and a focus on analytical (not opinion-based) examinations of course material.